

Compare New-York and Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio—States of equal natural advantages and equal ages. The wealth of the Free States is in a much greater ratio than that of the Slave States—The Manufactures of the Slave as compared to those of the Free States are as 1 to 4 nearly, as is shown by statistics. I consider the accumulation of wealth in a loss ratio.

It impoverishes the Soil and defaces the loveliest features of Nature. Washington advises a friend to remove from Pennsylvania to Virginia—saying that cheap lands in Virginia were as good as the dear lands in Pennsylvania, and anticipating the abolition of Slavery, would be more productive. His anticipations have perished—Slavery still exists—the will brier and the red fox are now there the field-growth and the inhabitants!

It induces National Poverty. Slaves consume more and produce less than Freedmen. Hence illusive wealth, prodigality and bankruptcy, without the capability of hearing adversity or recovering from its influence; then come despair, dishonor and crime.

It is an evil to the free laborer, by forcing him by the laws of competition—supply and demand—to work for the wages of the slave, food and shelter. The poor, in the Slave States, are the most destitute native population in the United States.

It sustains the public sentiment in favor of the deadly affray and the duel—those relics of a barbarous age.

It is the mother and the nurse of Lynch law, which I regard as the most horrid of all crimes, not even excepting parricide, which ancient legislators thought too impossible to be ever supposed in the legal code. If all the blood shed in the South could be gathered together, the horrid image which Emmitt drew of the cruelty of his judges would grow pale in view of this greater terror.

Where all these evils exist, how can Liberty, Constitutional Liberty, live? No, indeed, it cannot, and has not existed in conjunction with Slavery. We are but nominal freemen, for though born to all the privileges known to the Constitution and the laws, written and prescriptive, we have been struck down with the leaden hand of Slavery, the most glorious banner that freedom ever bore in the face of man.

Liberty by Jury—Liberty of Speech and of the Press? The North may be liable to censure in Congress for freedom of speech—may lose the privileges of the Post Office and the Right of Petition, and perhaps yet be free—but we of the land of Slavery, are ourselves slaves! Alas for the hypocritical cry of liberty and equality which demagogues sound forever in our ears! The Declaration of Independence comes back from all nations, not in a note of triumph and self-glory, but in a note of mourning and self-lamentation, making us feel in the great world of Freedom—raising up to ourselves idols of wood and stone, inscribed with the name of Deity, where the one invisible and true God can never dwell. The blood of the heroes of 76 has been shed in vain. The just expectations of Hamilton and Franklin and Sherman and Morris and Adams of the North, are betrayed by the continuance of Slavery. The fond anticipations of Washington and Jefferson and Madison and Mason of the South, have not been realized. The great experiment of Republican Government has not been fairly tested. If the Union should not be perpetual, nor the American name be synonymous with that of liberty in all coming time, to Slavery is at once the cause of the crime and the avenger!

Are we indeed of that vaunted Saxon blood, which no dangers can appal, no obstacles obstruct, and shall we sit with shivering limbs and dewy feet by the running stream with innate features and stolid gaze, expecting this flood of evils to flow past, leaving the channel dry? We who can conquer all things else, shall we be here only subdued ignominiously whispering with white lips. There is no remedy! Are the forests free in the wide heavens, the fishes secure in the depths of the ocean, the beasts untrammelled in the forest wilds, and shall man only, man formed in the image of Deity, the heir of immortality, be doomed to hopeless servitude? Yes, there is a remedy.

There is one of four consequences to which Slavery inevitably leads: A continuance of the present relative position of the master and the slave, both as to numbers and intelligence and physical power; Or an extermination of the blacks; Or an extermination of the whites; Or emancipation and removal, or emancipation and a community of interests between the races.

The present relative position between the blacks and whites (even if undisturbed by external influences, which we cannot hope,) cannot long continue. Statistics of members show that in the whole Slave States the black increases on the white population. The dullest eye can also see that the African, by association with the white race, has improved in intellect, and by being transferred to a temperate climate, and forced to labor and to throw off the indolence of his native land, he is increasing in physical power; while the white, by the same reversed laws, is retrograding in the same respects. Slavery then cannot remain for ever as it is. That the black race will be exterminated seems hardly probable from the above reflections, and because the great mass of human passions will be in favor of the increase of the slaves ad interim. Pride, love of power, bling avarice, and many other passions are for it, and against it only fear in the opposite scale. We are forced, therefore, to the conclusion that the slave population must increase till there is no retreat but in extermination of the whites. Athens, Sparta, Sicily, and Rome nearly, flung in modern times, did fall by servile wars. I have shown elsewhere that the slavery of the blacks in the modern, is more dangerous than the slavery of the whites in the ancient system; even the intelligent slave was incorporated into the high caste of quondam masters, an eternal safety valve, which yet did not save from explosions eminently disastrous.

The negative of the second proposition, then, establishes the third, unless we avail ourselves of the last—emancipation. If my reasoning and facts be correct, there is not a sane mind in all the South who

would not agree with me, that if we can be saved from the first named evils, by all means emancipate. Emancipation is entirely safe. Sparta and Athens turned the slaves by thousands into freedom with safety, who fought bravely for their common country. During the Revolution many emancipated slaves did good service in the cause of liberty. We learn from Mr. Gurney and other sources to be relied upon, that British West India emancipation has been entirely successful, and productive of none of those evils which were so pertinaciously foretold by interested pro-slavery men. The British have regiments of black men who make fine soldiers—protectors, not enemies of the empire. But above all I rely not upon sound *a priori* reasoning only, but rather upon actual experience. There are in the United States, by the last census, 386,265 free blacks; 170,758 of whom are in the Free, the remainder in the Slave States. There are also 2,455,145 slaves—so that in fact about one-sixth of the whole black race in America are already free! No danger of evil consequence has ensued from the residence of these 386,265 freed among us. Who then will be so absurd as to contend that the liberation of the other five-sixths will endanger the safety or happiness of the whites? I repeat then that emancipation is entirely safe.

Emancipation must either be by the voluntary consent of the masters, or by force of law. I regard voluntary emancipation as the most probable, the most desirable, and the most practicable. For the slave-holding land-holder would not be less rich in consequence, the enhancement of the value of land would compensate for the loss in slaves. A comparison of the price of lands of equal quality in the Free and Slave States will prove this conclusively. If, however by force of law—the law having once sanctioned slaves as property, the great principle which is recognized by all civilized governments, that private property cannot be taken for public use without just compensation—dictates that slaves should not be liberated without the consent of the masters, or without paying an equivalent to the owners. Under the sanction of law, one man invests the proceeds of his labor in slaves, another in land; in the course of time it becomes necessary to the common weal to buy up the lands for redistribution or culture in common—how should the tax be laid? Of course upon lands, slaves and personal property—in a word, upon the whole property of the whole people. If, on the other hand, it should nearly concern the safety and happiness of society, both the slave holder and the non-slave holder, that slaves should be taken and emancipated, then by the same legitimate course of reasoning the whole property of the State should be taxed for the purpose.

If emancipation shall take place by force of law, shall it be by the laws of the States or by the law of Congress? Let Congress abolish Slavery wherever she has jurisdiction, and in the military places, in the territories, and on the high seas, and in the District of Columbia, if the contracts ofcession with Virginia and Maryland allow—I lay down the broad rule that Congress should do no more for the perpetuation of Slavery than she is specially bound to do. The debates in the Federal Convention prove that the Free States did not intend to assume the responsibilities of Slavery. In the language of Roger Sherman and others, they could not acknowledge the right of "property in men." There is then no moral obligation in the Union to sustain the rights of the South in slaves, except only they are morally bound to regard the contract with the South, and in the construction of that contract, the presumption in all cases of doubt is in favor of Liberty. On the contrary the United States are morally bound by all means consistent with the Constitution to extinguish Slavery. The word slave is not used in the Constitution, because the promises of all the Southern members of the Convention led to final emancipation, and a noble shame on all hands induced the expulsion of the word from the charter of Human Liberty. I cannot agree that there is any law superior to that of the Federal Constitution. It is the part of Christians to model human laws after the Divine code, but the law in the present state of light from on High, must be paramount to the Bible itself. If any other practice should prevail, the confusion of religious interpretations of the Divine Will would be endless and insufferable. In a country where Jews, Christians and Infidels, and Deists and Catholics and Protestants and Fourierists and Mormonites and Millerites and Shakers, all are concentrated into one nation, it would be absurd of all governmental action that each sect should set up a Divine code as each understands it, superior to the Constitution itself. If a case ever arises where conscience dictates a different doctrine, that the penalty of the law is rather to be borne than its prescriptions obeyed—then also there arises at the same time a case where the sufferer must look to God only for approval and sustenance—he has passed from all appeal to mankind.

I dissent, then, from the ultra anti-slavery and the ultra pro-slavery men. I cannot join the North in the violation of the Constitution—I cannot stand by the South in asking the moral sanction of the North; nor do I regard it as a breach of the constitutional compact that she should seek a higher grade of civilization by using all legal means for the entire expulsion of Slavery in the U. States. Congress having no power over slavery in the States, the States, each one for itself, where its Constitution does not forbid, certainly has and should exercise the power of purchase and emancipation. In Kentucky the Constitution forbids the Legislature to act upon the subject. We must therefore look to a Convention, or that which I most hope, to voluntary emancipation. Enlightened self-interest, humanity and religion are moving on with slow yet irresistible force to that final result. Let the whole North in mass, in conjunction with the patriotic of the South, withdraw the moral sanction and legal power of the Union from the sustenance of Slavery, then our existence as a people with undivided interests may yet be consummated. May the Ruler of all nations, the common Father of all men, who is no respecter of persons, and whose laws are not violated with impunity by individuals nor by States, move us to be just, happy and Free. May the spirit which

has eternally consecrated in the admiration of Men Salamis and Marathon, and Bunker's Hill and Yorktown, inspire our hearts, till the glorious principles of seventy-six shall be fully vindicated, and throughout the land shall be established "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever."

C. M. CLAY.
Lexington, Ky. Nov. 1848.

CONGRESS.

Correspondence of the Courier & Enquirer.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday night, Dec. 6.

The whole of the day has been consumed by the House in a discussion of questions of order, &c., growing out of Mr. Barnard's motion to amend the journal so that it shall set forth the paper offered by himself and others adverse to the right of gentlemen from the non-districted States to hold seats in the House. According to parliamentary law and the rules and practice of the House, the resolution of Mr. Barnard to amend the journal, the House having yesterday adjourned without taking the question upon his motion. The Speaker gave it as his opinion that the journals had been properly made up, which opinion was sustained by Mr. Barnard, Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Holmes, Mr. White and others, and combated by Mr. Dromgoolle and Mr. Wise. The gentlemen from each of the States interested in the decision of the question, also addressed the House, so much on the question before it as upon their constitutional and legal right to their seats. In doing this they indulged in much declamation, and in loud professions of patriotic regard to the constitution, but they did not in any instance adduce any argument to show that their claim was either constitutional or legal. They were "all honorable men," they were the peers of those who had taken it upon themselves to question their right upon the floor—may, they were unwilling to be considered as their equals; in their own estimation they claim for superior consideration as representatives of States that had nullified a law of Congress.

There was no decision had upon the various questions raised in the course of the debate, but it was so evident, from the discussion, that the paper had been rightfully placed upon the journal, that the nullifying members were compelled to suggest the *Benjamin* expedition of expurgating it as the only one by which the obnoxious paper could be removed from the journals which they had sworn to keep.

At twenty minutes past three the House, on motion of Dave Johnson, proceeded to register the edicts of King Caucus, and Caleb McNulty, of Ohio, was elected Clerk in the place of M. St. Clair Clarke, by a vote of 124 to 66.

A motion was then made to adjourn, when Mr. C. J. Ingersoll rose and announced the bill, of which he yesterday gave notice, for the relief of Gen. Jackson, and which was read by its title, and referred to the Committee of the whole of the State of the Union and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

The House then adjourned. It is probable that all the offices will be filled to-morrow by the persons determined upon in Caucus, when the House will be perfectly and entirely Van Buren in its organization, and there is but little doubt that the Committees will also be of the same character. As far as the House is concerned, Calhounism is annihilated. It has either from its real deficiency in numerical strength or from its inability to cope with the superior management and finesse of Van Burenism, ceased to exist in the House in any organized form. The members of the Calhoun men, but there is no Calhoun party there.

It is now certain that the great battle of 1844, will be fought under the non-commitment flag of Van Burenism on the one hand, and the broad banner of Whig principles with Henry Clay as their embodiment, on the other.

WASHINGTON, Thursday night, Dec. 7.

Immediately after the reading of the journals in the House Mr. Newton presented the memorial of Mr. Goggin, contesting the seat of Mr. Gilmer, from Va. Mr. Adams also presented the memorial of Van Buren, in its organization, and there is but little doubt that the Committees will also be of the same character. As far as the House is concerned, Calhounism is annihilated. It has either from its real deficiency in numerical strength or from its inability to cope with the superior management and finesse of Van Burenism, ceased to exist in the House in any organized form. The members of the Calhoun men, but there is no Calhoun party there.

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Mr. Dickey moved an amendment that the Clerk should issue proposals and contract with the lowest bidder for the printing, which motion was lost by 110 to 60.

Other ineffectual efforts were made to modify the original resolution, and it was adopted under the pressure of the previous question upon the call of Mr. Johnson.

Messrs Blair & Rives were then elected Printers they having 124 votes and Messrs Gales and Seaton 62 votes.

The House then proceeded to the election of Sergeant-at-Arms and Door-keeper, electing Dr. Lane to the former, and Mr. Dow to the latter office.

The House then adopted a resolution that the Speaker appoint the usual Standing Committees, with the exception of the Committee on Elections, the Speaker being at his own request excused from the duty.

The Speaker called Mr. Beardsley to the Chair, and a motion was made that the House proceed at once to the election of the Committee.

Mr. Adams thought it was not proper to do so, as such haste would have the appearance of concerted action and a prejudging of the rights of the contestants.

Mr. Carroll moved that the person then occupying the chair (Mr. Beardsley) designate the persons to compose the committee. This was objected to by Mr. Dromgoolle and Mr. Newton, but after some little discussion, was adopted the motion having been previously amended so that the committee must be reported to the House on Monday next.

After adopting a resolution, which was presented by Mr. Adams, designating a day for the appointment of a Chairman, the House adjourned till Monday next.

Monday, Dec. 11, 1848.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to-day, after the announcement of the Committee of Elections and the business connected therewith (which is noticed elsewhere) the resolution of Mr. Barnard to amend the journal of Monday, the first day of the session, by stating the facts of his asking leave to read the Protest, &c. and by entering thereon the document itself, as that intended to be read, once more came up as unfinished business.

Mr. Gilmer's amendment to strike from Mr. B.'s resolution that part proposing the entry of the protest was carried: Yeas 124, Nays 64.

Mr. Hamlin of Me. moved a further amendment directing the Clerk in making up a journal of the proceedings of to-day to omit the Protest of Mr. BARNARD at length!

Mr. BARNARD (in reference to Mr. Gilmer's remarks) showed that his proposition was as direct a mode as possible of bringing the protest upon the journal, professing as it did to spread thereon a precise account of the proceedings of the first day of the session in reference to the Protest, (which had been wholly omitted on the journal,) and as such no man desirous that the true record should be made could go counter to his conscience in voting for it.

The amendment (of Mr. Hamlin) Mr. B. considered a very grave proposition, and one which touched something more than the mere question before the House—which touched the Constitution and the oath of the Clerk. He defied the ingenuity of man to devise a way of making a correct journal of to-day's proceedings without including the protest. He begged of gentlemen not to pile one act of nullification upon another. They had nullified an act of Congress by the introduction of certain members into this House; they now proposed to nullify the Constitution by directing the Clerk how he should perform his duties under it.

Mr. Holmes of S. C. styled this an attempt to do, in advance, what was done afterwards, on a former occasion, had agitated the whole Country—to expunge in advance.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, moved to lay the whole subject on the table; lost. Yeas 83, Nays 95.

After a further continuation of the discussion, Mr. Hamlin withdrew his amendment.

The amendment of Mr. Barnard, as amended, was then agreed to; and thus the journal of the first day (Monday,) was disposed of.

The journal of Tuesday was then taken up on the motion of Mr. Chappell of Ga. pending to strike from it the protest (as embodied in the resolution of Mr. Barnard.) The motion was agreed to; Yeas 92; Nays 82.

Mr. John Campbell made an unsuccessful effort to have entered upon the journal his resolutions opposed to the admission of the General Ticket Members.

The resolution for the adoption of the rules of the last Congress came up, and Mr. Dromgoolle moved an amendment (to cover similar cases in future) to prevent the entry of irrelevant matter upon the journal.

This subject occupied the attention of the House to adjournment at a late hour, question being taken thereon.

IN SENATE, the Standing Committees were announced, and are as follows:

Foreign Relations—Messrs. Archer, Berrien, Buchanan, Tallmadge, and Chote.

Finance—Messrs. Evans, McDuffie, Huntington, Woodbury, and Crittenden.

Commerce—Messrs. Huntington, Woodbridge, King, Barrow, and Wright.

Manufactures—Messrs. Simmons, Archer, Miller, Buchanan, and Morehead.

Agriculture—Messrs. Upham, Bates, Sturgeon, Semple, and Aitchison.

Military Affairs—Messrs. Crittenden, Barrow, Benton, Dayton, and Foster.

Militia—Messrs. Barrow, Fulton, Semple, Foster, and Aitchison.

Naval Affairs—Messrs. Bayard, Choate, Huger, Haywood and Henderson.

Public Lands—Messrs. Woodbridge, Tallmadge, Walker, Huntington and Archer.

Private Land Claims—Messrs. Henderson, Haywood, Tappan, Fulton and Sprague.

Indian Affairs—Messrs. White, Morehead, Sevier, Phelps and Benton.

Claims—Messrs. Foster, Wright, Woodbury, Phelps, and Haywood.

Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. Jarnegan, Dayton, Upham, Colqui, and Henderson.

Judiciary—Messrs. Berrien, Clayton, Dayton, Walker, and Huger.

Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs. Merrick, Simmons, Jarnegan, Fulton, and Aitchison.

Roads and Canals—Messrs. Porter, White, King, Breese, and Sturgeon.

Pensions—Messrs. Bates, Sevier, Foster, Bagby, and Allen.

District of Columbia—Messrs. Miller, Bayard, King, Morehead, and Semple.

Patents—Messrs. Porter, Henderson, Sturgeon, and Allen.

Retrenchment—Messrs. Morehead, Miller, Fulton, and Henderson.

Public Buildings—Messrs. Dayton, Breese, and Bagby.

Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Messrs. Tappan, White, and Porter.

Printing—Messrs. Simmons, Fairfield, and Sprague.

Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Dayton, Bagby, and Sprague.

The resolution from the House for the election of Chaplains was received, and, having been agreed to the Senate proceeded to the election. Rev. Septimus Tuston (former Chaplain for several sessions) receiving 37 votes to 4 scattering was declared elected.

Elections of door-keeper, Secretary &c. were also held! Asbury Dickens, Esq. (present Secretary) received 47 votes and was re-elected.

Edward Dyer, Esq. (present incumbent) was elected Sergeant-at-Arms by 39 votes, and Robert Beale re-elected Assistant Sergeant and Door-keeper by 24 votes, to Robert E. Horner, 23. The Senate Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 12.

IN SENATE, to-day, Mr. BENTON announced the death of his colleague, Hon. LEWIS F. LINN—which occurred at his residence a few weeks previous to the meeting of Congress—and gave utterance

to the sensations excited thereby, in eloquent appropriate and affecting terms.

Mr. CRITTENDEN also paid a brief and heartfelt tribute to the memory and virtues of the deceased.

Resolutions were then adopted expressive of the sense of the loss sustained by this melancholy decease, of condolence with the afflicted family, and of going in to mourning for thirty days.

The Senate then adjourned.

In the House, the SPEAKER announced his appointment of the usual standing Committees, as follows:

Foreign Affairs—Messrs. C. Ingersoll, Dawson, Rhea, Semple, Beardsley, Tomlinson, Gilmer, Henry Williams, White.

Ways and Means—Messrs. McKay, Weller, D. H. Lewis, D. L. Seymour, J. R. Ingersoll, Chappell, Dromgoolle, Norris Barard.

Commerce—Messrs. Holmes, Preston King, Hale, Dunlap, Labranche, Winthrop, Paez, Charles M. Reid, McClellan.

Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs. Hopkins, Siles, Kennedy, Hardin, Grinnell, Dana, Relfe, David S. Reed, Jenkins.

Judiciary—Messrs. Wilkins, French, Saunders, Dillingham, Vinton, Bart Dickey, Catlin, Pettit.

Indian Affairs—Messrs. Cive Johnson, Benton, Jacob Tompkins, Hughes, James B. Hunt, Van Meter, Bidlack, Post, Washington Hunt.

Claims—Vance, Stephens, Thomas Smith, Clingman, Cobb, Ramsey, A. Johnson, Bowlin, Strong.

Manufactures—Messrs. Adams, Irvin, Hudson, Mosley, Butler, Lamkin, Woodward, Cranston, Gullamer.

Agriculture—Messrs. D. Berry, Byram, Green, Anderson, Hays, Farley, Herby, St. John, Florence, Jer. Brown.

Naval—Messrs. Wiley, Preston, Parmenter, Baringer, Murphy, T. H. Seymour, Marsh, A. Kinison, Simpson.

Public Lands—Messrs. John W. Davis, Boyd, Hubbard, Colaneri, Janney, Patterson, M. C. Edmund, Raynor, Houston.

Military—Messrs. Harlan, McDowell, Cole, Fish, Boyd, Irvin, Bossier, Hardin, McClellan.

Territories—Messrs. A. V. Brown, Duncan, Houston, E. J. Morris, Wentworth, Tibbatts, Milton Brown, Daniel, Tyler.

District Columbia—Messrs. Campbell, Kirkpatrick, A. Stewart, Willis Green, Chilton, Robinson, G. W. Jones, M. Causlen, Bower.

Roads and Canals—Owen, Dickinson, Stearns, Carroll, White, Frick, Macley, Redding, Ficklin.

Public Expenditures—Clinton, Matthews, Redding, Grider, Cranston, Parady, A. H. Reed, Skyles, P. B. Johnson.

Patents—Messrs. Harper, James Black, Russell, John Stewart, Severance.

Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. R. D. Davis, Robert Smith, Arrington, Brodhead, D. P. King, Senter, Steison, Lucas, Stone.

Private Land claims—Messrs. Cross, Siddell, Dellett, James A. Black, W. J. Brown, Carey, Elisha R. Pette, severance, and Rogers.

Militia—Messrs. Dean, John Stewart, Mosley, Tibbatts, Moore, Foot, Bower, Hays, and Frick.

Revolutionary Pensions—Messrs. Rathbun, Stearns, Rodney, Simons, Hungerford, Giddings, Joseph A. Wright, Hogg, Melvaine.

Invalid Pensions—Messrs. J. Brink, Erhoff, Russell, Ashe, Joseph Morris, Robert Smith, Nes, Calom, Tilden.

Public Buildings and Grounds—Messrs. Pratt, Leonard, Hudson, William Wright, Winthrop.

Revisal and Unfinished Business—Messrs. E. R. Potter, Hubbell, Foster, Bullington, Emery D. Potter.

Accounts—Messrs. McDowell, Taylor, Herrick, Wheaton, Rodney.

Mileage—Messrs. Cobb, Ritter, Perley B. Johnson, Henley, Farlee.

Expenditures in the State Department—Messrs. Rogers, Blackwell, John T. Smith, Willis Green, William Wright.

Expenditures in the Treasury Department—Messrs. Caldwell, Yost, Tilden, Anderson, Ashe.

Expenditures in the War Department—Messrs. Melvaine, Kennedy, Arrington, Grider, Andrew Johnson.

Expenditures in the Navy Department—Messrs. Dana, Kirkpatrick, Vanneter, Bullington, Senter.

Expenditures in the Post Office Department—Messrs. Harper, David S. Reid, Thomas Smith, Jeremiah Brown, Nes.

Expenditures on the Public Buildings—Messrs. Daniel P. King, Dawson, Taylor, Washington P. Hunt, Ramsey.

The Library on the part of the House—Messrs. Burke, Marsh, Macley.

GREAT ROBBERY.

Wall street was thrown into ferment yesterday by the report that one of the trunks belonging to Messrs. Pomeroy & Co.'s Express had been lost in some mysterious manner from a board the Albany boat yesterday morning. It was an iron trunk and contained all the money and valuable packages belonging to the brokers and banks. It appears that Mr. Copp, one of the house, who was the traveler, came to the office upon his arrival, about midnight, and stated that his trunks were on board the boat as usual. Early in the morning he started on his return to Albany by the Housatonic Railroad, taking the up freight. After he had gone and not before was it generally reported yesterday; it was discovered that this valuable trunk could not be found, and the manner of its disappearance remains a perfect mystery. The officers of the boat knowing nothing about it and the absence of Mr. Copp very much embarrassed the search. Messengers were sent to Philadelphia, Boston and Albany yesterday afternoon to discover if possible some track of the missing property, and it is sincerely to be hoped that it will yet be recovered. It was reported that Mr. Copp stated the trunk was placed in the charge of Capt. Schultz and that the Captain denied it, which raised a question of veracity; but this report is without foundation, as Mr. Copp made no such statement. It is most probable that some of the numerous rogues who are continually on the watch for plunder during the night succeeded in getting the trunk off the boat.

MAIL ROBBERY.

The mailbag from Albany for New York, containing the mails of Wednesday and Thursday last was stolen on Thursday night, where it was found by Capt. Hays of the U. S. near the Hudson docks. There were drafts in the mail to the amount of about \$70,000; payment of which has of course been stopped. The robbery, as was ascertained on Sunday was committed by the mail guard named Hoffman. The stage arrived at Hudson the night previous to the departure of the boat for New York, and Hoffman instead of depositing the mail bag in the Post Office, carried it out of town and robbed it of its contents, as above stated. He has been arrested.

Hoffman has been in the employ of the mail contractors for several years and was supposed to be an honest man.—Troy Whig.

THE GALAXY.

MIDDLEBURY:

Wednesday Dec. 20, 1843.

RAIL ROADS, TERRIBLY ANTI-LOCOFOCO.

Altho the loco party when in power, ruled the nation with a rod of iron, and recklessly sacrificed the public good to its lust of power, yet it has ever vaunted itself the conservator of popular rights. Especially do the wisecracks of the party shout *monopoly monopoly*, as if there was a magic terror in the word which must bring into disrepute any measure of their opponents however salutary, which might be any way liable to this imputation. Of course we have not been surprised since the passage through the legislature of the Rail Road charters, without subjecting them to future legislative action, to find this raw head and bloody bones, paraded through the columns of every loco paper in the State, except the Windham Co. Democrat, which last week was denounced by the mad Hamlet of the Woodstock Age, for daring to wash its hands of the canting hypocrisy of the self-styled democracy upon this subject.

In every case where the power of control over corporations can be retained consistent with the accomplishment of the object, it should be, as the variable circumstances of society might demand revision & improvement. Hence the propriety of the course of Gov. Jenison in 1838 in returning to the legislature for reconsideration, the act to incorporate the Memphremagog Theological Seminary, on the ground that unrestricted acts of incorporation should not be resorted to except when the object in view is of such magnitude and difficulty of attainment as to afford no other probable means of accomplishment. In the case then under the consideration of the Governor, and in all other similar cases where the rights of property of individuals are concerned, to leave acts of incorporation open for future legislation is most manifestly correct.

But many enterprises of the last importance to community cannot be carried out without the aid of the capital of individuals, who cannot be induced to act without the hope of secure and profitable investment. These observations are more emphatically true in relation to Rail Roads than to investments of any other description. Should charters to banks or manufacturing corporations be subjected to the future control of the legislature, no serious loss of the principal, would accrue to the stockholders. An act of repeal, or of unreasonable restriction could not divest them of their property, altho it might force them to replace it in their pockets.

But capital invested in Rail Roads, can never be reclaimed. The Rail Road, and its fixtures are all that remains. There can be no withdrawal, but must be a loss of the whole investment, should the legislature render it worthless. But this very obvious distinction between the different objects we have alluded to, as subjects of legislation, that great expounder of the locofoecy of the State, the Editor of the Montpelier Patriot is either unwilling or unable to apprehend. He has indeed wrapt himself into a perfect phrenzy upon the subject, and threatens the whig party with all manner of mischief because the last legislature in granting rail road charters, created vested rights which it cannot rescind at pleasure; altho it is manifest that every restriction to guard the interests of the public, any way consistent with the accomplishment of the object is contained in the bills. Still exclaims Mr. Marston *Treason*, this is rank *Treason* against the State, "and a surrender of her sovereignty to a monopolizing and grasping crew." Hence "war to the knife" exclaims Sir Valiant against these abominable

Ever since we have existed as a free people, Turnpikes, toll bridges, canals and rail roads, in every State in the Union, have been granted without the reserved nullifying power contended for. And should the incalculable benefits of Rail Roads be lost to Vermont by crippling the charters in such a way as to render them unavailing?

Ask capitalists to make investments of millions to construct a rail road through Vermont on the condition that no rights should be vested in the stockholders which the legislature might not rescind at their pleasure. And how many will stultify themselves by parting with their money, for the avails of which they must forever

after supplicate the mercy of the legislature. However confident he might be of the probity and friendship of the whig, who would erect a dwelling without a simply in the premises.

The matter of fact is, that while rail roads are constructing, which bring the farthest west into proximity with the eastern marts, Vermont must have them to enable her to maintain a fair competition with her sister states in our markets. Foreign